

Lung transplant given to boy aged 15

By HENRY STANHOPE

The first lung transplant in Europe was performed in the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, on Wednesday. News of the operation was released in a brief statement from the hospital last night.

The patient is a boy aged 15, Alex Smith, of Breascleit, near Callernish, on the Isle of Lewis, the youngest boy in a family of nine.

The donor was a girl aged 18 whose death was confirmed by nine doctors two hours before the operation started.

The hospital statement said: "An operation to transplant a lung was undertaken at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh on May 15. The condition of the patient is satisfactory."

Four surgeons took part in the operation, which involved in all about a dozen people led by Mr. Andrew Logan, reader in thoracic surgery at Edinburgh University and consultant in thoracic surgery to the South-East Regional Hospital Board.

Two in America

Three lung transplants have been carried out previously—two in America and one in Japan. Both the Americans died shortly afterwards.

The operation is considered less difficult than a heart transplant, but the chief difficulty facing doctors remains that of the body's rejection of the new organ. The critical time will arise in about a week.

The lung was removed from the donor at Edinburgh infirmary, the hospital where the country's first kidney transplant was carried out eight years ago, and immediately transplanted into the boy—an operation lasting about two and a half hours.

Sir John Bruce, Professor of Clinical Surgery at Edinburgh University, who is recovering from a broken ankle, said from his own hospital bed last night: "This has been on the cards for a long time. The knowledge has been there. If this one is successful I am sure others will follow."

Nature-Times News Service writes:—

It is something of a surprise that the transplant at Edinburgh consists simply of a lung. In the past few weeks there has been much talk of combined heart and lung transplant operations, partly through the advocacy of Mr. Donald Longmore, one of the team at the National Heart Hospital concerned with the heart transplant two weeks ago. The combination suggests itself naturally because of the intimacy of the connexions between the heart and the six lobes of the lungs which largely envelope it.

As a surgical operation, it is unlikely that transplanting lungs will be any more difficult than the transplantation of a heart. The experience of the past few months has shown clearly that at this stage surgical problems are much less serious obstacles to success than the other difficulties attending transplantation operations.

Duke wishes he had kept 'trap shut'

CANBERRA, May 16.—The Duke of Edinburgh said today that he would have done better to have kept his "trap shut" instead of chiding Sir Garfield Barwick, the Australian Chief Justice, in Sydney on Tuesday.

On Tuesday the Duke said he thought Sir Garfield had been carried away by national pride in his address to the first session of the third Commonwealth study conference.

The Duke's comment on one of Sir Garfield's points—that Australia had no sharp divisions based on religion—brought him a rebuke from the *Melbourne Herald* which described as ridiculous his assertion that, of Australia's two main parties, "one is predominantly Roman Catholic and the other is predominantly Protestant".

Today in an address at a luncheon given by the National Press Club the Duke said: "As so very often happens, I discover that it would have done me—that it would have been much better if I had kept my trap shut."

According to a *Melbourne Herald* report of the luncheon the Duke also said in his remarks that he was "not wholly inaccurate" in his original comment on the composition of the Australian parties.

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The Times (London, England), Friday, May 17, 1968; pg. 1; Issue 57253. (437 words)

Category: News

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Gale Document Number:CS18050737